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SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" Sir, may I know whether the pesticides purchased hitherto by the Government are from foreign countries or manufactured in India? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I would like to have notice."

Supply of electricity to Chowghat, Ponnani taluk.

* 573 *Q.*—SRI N. GOPALA MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for the supply of electricity to Chowghat, in Ponnani taluk?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A proposal for extension of supply of electricity to Chowghat, Guruvayoor and other villages in Ponnani taluk, Malabar district, is under examination in the Electricity department."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, will the Government negotiate with the Travancore-Cochin Government for extending electricity to Chowghat and other neighbouring areas from that State because it will be easier and cheaper to do so than to extend electricity from Tirur? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, the matter is under consideration and when I finally take steps I will consider the question of making a representation to the Travancore-Cochin Government."

Sale of seeds and manure by the Government Seed Depot, Mount Road, Madras.

* 574 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of seeds and manure purchased by the Department of Agriculture for sale in the City branch at Mount Road in the year 1952;

(*b*) the total amounts of sales in the year 1952 ;

(*c*) the annual establishment charges of the above branch; and

(*d*) why the prices of seeds, seedlings and manure are higher than those of similar articles sold by the private nurseries in Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The information required by the Member is as follows :—

	LB.
(1) Seeds	2,029
(2) Manures	9,992
(3) Insecticides	2,107

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" (*b*) The sales during the year 1952–53 amounted to Rs. 11,960 roundly.

" (*c*) Rs. 22,150 per annum.

" (*d*) The materials sold in the Government Seed Depot, Mount Road, do not appear to be appreciably higher in cost when compared with the prices of materials sold by the private nurserymen. For example, the depot is selling all vegetable seedlings at a flat rate of 8 annas per 100, whereas private nurserymen charge different rates for different kinds of seedlings at prices varying from 12 annas to Rs. 1–8–0 per 100 seedlings."

Purchase of new buses.

* 575 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Transport and Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of new buses purchased in the year 1953, the names of the suppliers and the total amount paid for them;

(*b*) whether these new buses were purchased after calling for tenders;

(*c*) the number of old buses not in use; and

(*d*) what the Government propose to do with these old buses?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—" (*a*) Thirty-five New Comer light diesel chases were purchased in the year 1953 from the Automobile Products of India, Limited, Bombay. The total amount paid towards the cost of he chases is Rs. 7,97,731–12–0.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) None, except for vehicles undergoing scheduled overhauls and maintenance.

" (*d*) Does not arise."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN:—" Sir, was there no Madras firm which would supply these chases?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—" Sir, tenders were called for and the matter was gone into. It was found that these were the best under the circumstances."

Improvement of the canal between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam.

* 576 *Q.*—SRI N. SIVARAJ: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to improve the canal that runs between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam in Tanjore district for navigation purposes; and if so, its present stage?